MARGARET JACOB

THE SECULAR ENLIGHTENMENT

AGENDA

Who is Margaret Jacob?

- ChatGPTs answer
- My answer

The aim of the book

The motivations for the book

The Secular Enlightenment

- Short summary of the book
- What I found interesting about the book

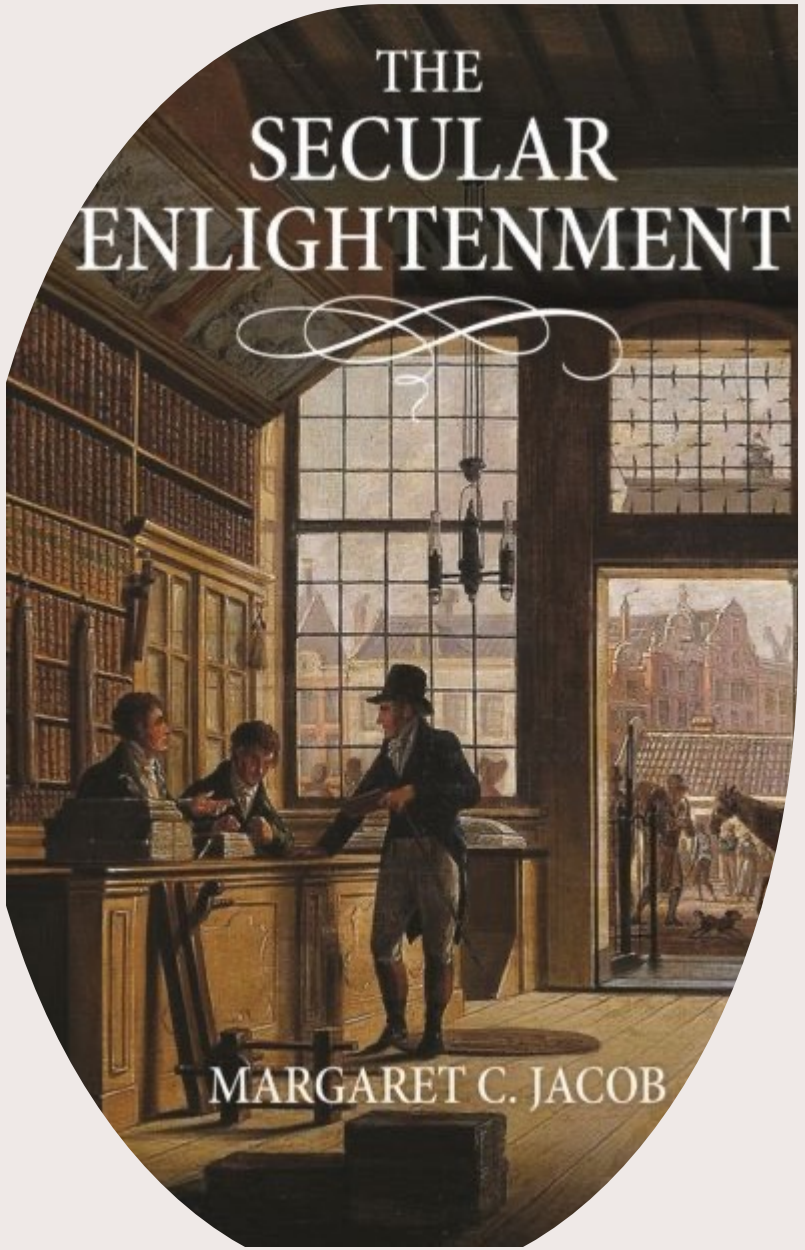
Summary

CHATGPT, WHO IS MARGARET JACOB (IN A FEW SENTENCES)?

Margaret Jacob is an American historian and professor who is renowned for her research on the history of the Enlightenment, the scientific revolution, and freemasonry. She has authored several books and articles on these topics and has received various awards and honors for her work. She is also a professor at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), where she teaches courses on European history, the history of science, and the history of political thought.

MARGARET JACOB

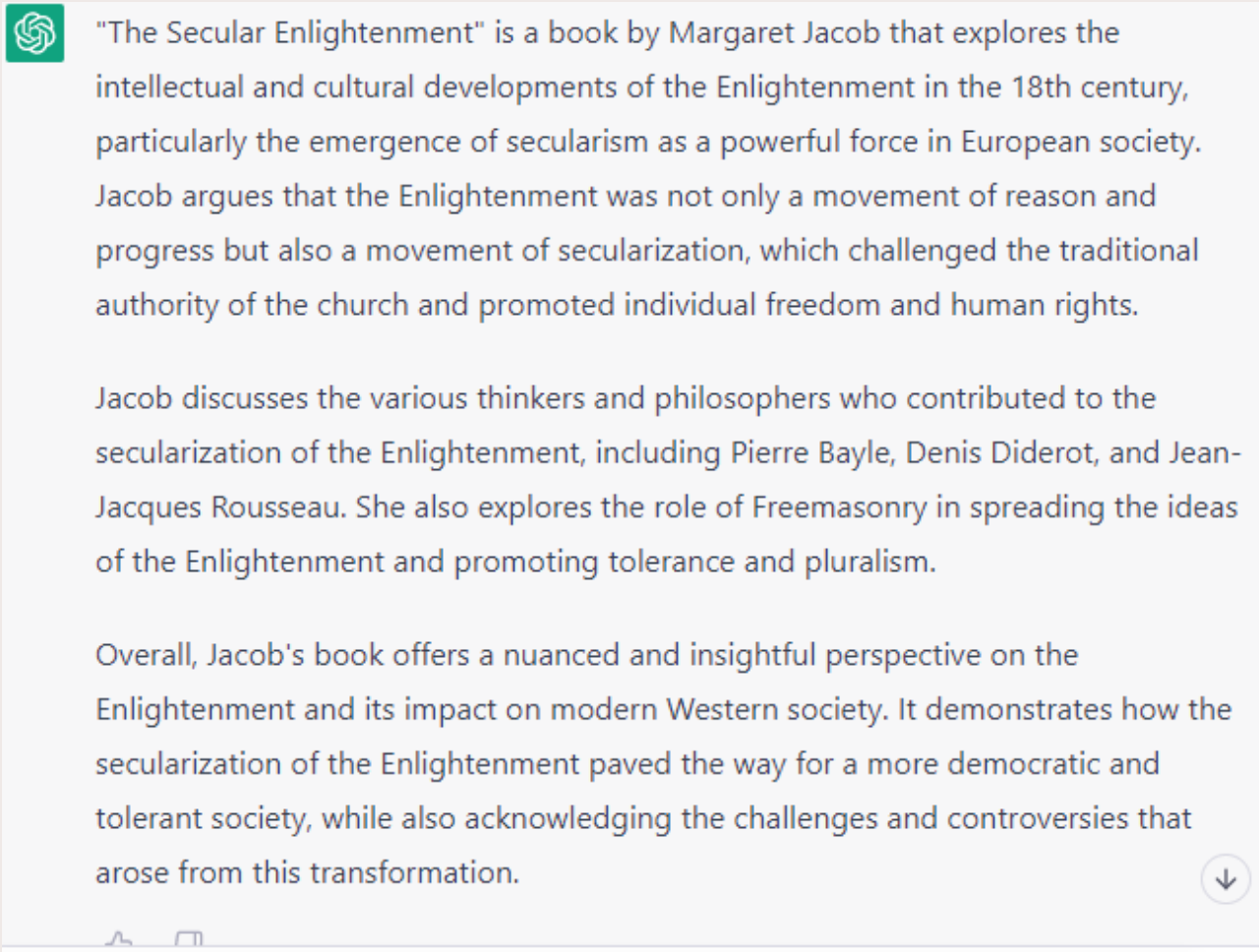
- Well-known historian of science and intellectual history
- Professor of Research at UCLA
- Born in 1943, New York
- Went to graduate school in the 1960s – developed an interest for the 17th century in Europe and the Dutch Republic (practiced religious toleration)
- Studied John Toland – freethinker and atheist. Used the word "Pantheist"



THE SECULAR ENLIGHTENMENT

- Published in 2019 as a contribution to describing the secular enlightenment and the move away from religious ruled states
- Not a critisism of religion and belief but rather a change in focus towards secular questions
- The Western world was influenced by secularism through the 16th and 17th centuries

HEY CHATGPT, GIVE A SHORT SUMMARY ON THE BOOK «THE SECULAR ENLIGHTENMENT» BY MARGARET JACOB



"The Secular Enlightenment" is a book by Margaret Jacob that explores the intellectual and cultural developments of the Enlightenment in the 18th century, particularly the emergence of secularism as a powerful force in European society. Jacob argues that the Enlightenment was not only a movement of reason and progress but also a movement of secularization, which challenged the traditional authority of the church and promoted individual freedom and human rights.

Jacob discusses the various thinkers and philosophers who contributed to the secularization of the Enlightenment, including Pierre Bayle, Denis Diderot, and Jean-Jacques Rousseau. She also explores the role of Freemasonry in spreading the ideas of the Enlightenment and promoting tolerance and pluralism.

Overall, Jacob's book offers a nuanced and insightful perspective on the Enlightenment and its impact on modern Western society. It demonstrates how the secularization of the Enlightenment paved the way for a more democratic and tolerant society, while also acknowledging the challenges and controversies that arose from this transformation.

THE AIM OF THE BOOK

- The different motivations for the Secular Enlightenment
  - Redefining the meaning of religion as a cultural practice
  - The discovery of the «new world»
  - The new science

  The ability and to imagine and ask questions, to satisfy curiosity

THE CHAPTERS

- Chapter 1 – The Setting: Space Expanded and Filled Anew
- Chapter 2 and 3 – Time Reinvented and Secular Lives
- Chapter 4 through 7 – Different examples of countries and their processes
    - Paris and the Materialist Alternative: The Window Stockdorff
    - The Scottish Enlightenment in Edinburgh
    - Berlin and Vienna
    - Naples and Milan
- Chapter 8 – The 1790s

SUMMARY

- Jacob is a well-known historian who has written multiple contributions to history, especially political history
- The Secular Enlightenment – focus away from religion.
- A new practice of life and viewing of Time
- New science

REFERENCE LIST

- Jacob, M. C. (2019). *The Secular Enlightenment*. Princeton University Press
- Tomaszewska, A. (2022). The Secular Enlightenment by Margaret C. Jacob (review). *The Catholic Historical Review, 108*(1), 214-216. https://doi.org/10.1353/cat.2022.0020
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- Podcast with Jacob – on Blackboard, or here: https://newbooksnetwork.com/search?+q=Margaret+Jacob